



## INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

All or some of the information you provide may become available to the public.

OMB # (1024-0236)  
Exp. Date (11/30/2010)  
Form No. (10-226)

<b>Reporting Year:</b> 2006	<b>Park:</b> Shenandoah NP	<b>Select the type of permit this report addresses:</b> Scientific Study	
<b>Name of principal investigator or responsible official:</b> Andrew Dolby		<b>Office Phone:</b> 540-654-1420	
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<b>Additional investigators or key field assistants (first name, last name, office phone, office email)</b> <b>Name:</b> Dr. Clair Mellinger <b>Phone:</b> 540-432-4409 <b>Email:</b> mellinac@emu.edu			
<b>Project Title (maximum 300 characters):</b> Abundance and distribution of Northern Saw-whet Owls along Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia			
<b>Park-assigned Study or Activity #:</b> SHEN-00328	<b>Park-assigned Permit #:</b> SHEN-2006-SCI-0012	<b>Permit Start Date:</b> Apr 11, 2006	<b>Permit Expiration Date:</b> May 31, 2006
<b>Scientific Study Starting Date:</b> May 09, 2006		<b>Estimated Scientific Study Ending Date:</b> May 10, 2006	
<b>For either a Scientific Study or a Science Education Activity, the status is:</b>  Completed		<b>For a Scientific Study that is completed, please check each of the following that applies:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A final report has been provided to the park or will be provided to the park within the next two years  <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of field notes, data files, photos, or other study records, as agreed, have been provided to the park  <input type="checkbox"/> All collected and retained specimens have been cataloged into the NPS catalog system and NPS has processed loan agreements as needed	
<b>Activity Type:</b> Monitoring			
<b>Subject/Discipline:</b> Birds / Ornithology			

### Purpose of Scientific Study or Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):

The Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO; *Aegolius acadicus*) is thought to primarily breed in across the northern United States, southern Canada, and the Rocky Mountain region of North America. However, its breeding range also extends southward along the spine of the Appalachian Mountains and Blue Ridge of the southeastern United States. While most research efforts in the Southeast U.S. have focused on the non-breeding NSWO population, especially along the Mid-Atlantic coast, little is known about the distribution and abundance of breeding NSWOs in this region. This population is of particular interest given that it occurs at the southern periphery of the species' eastern breeding range, a geographical location that could render it particularly vulnerable to decline. Additionally, recent surveys in Maryland and Pennsylvania have revealed that their NSWO populations are larger and more widely distributed than previously thought.

The Virginia Society of Ornithology, the leading organization promoting the study of Virginia's birds, proposes to conduct a survey of breeding NSWOs along Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. The undisturbed habitat along Skyline Drive is consistent with NSWO breeding requirements and could add valuable information about this species's potential use of the Blue Ridge for reproduction. This survey route would be part of a more extensive NSWO survey coordinated by the Virginia Society of Ornithology and targeting several counties in western Virginia, including Highland, Bath, Alleghany, and Craig Counties.

**Findings and status of Scientific Study or accomplishments of Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):**

Three positive Northern Saw-whet Owl detections were reported along Skyline Drive on May 9, 2006.

**For Scientific Studies (not Science Education Activities), were any specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analysis?**

No

**Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by NPS (enter dollar amount):**

\$0

**Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by all other sources (enter dollar amount):**

\$0

**List any other U.S. Government Agencies supporting this study or activity and the funding each provided this reporting year:**

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.625 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the forms. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Dr. John G. Dennis, Natural Resources (3127 MIB), National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.